

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07

SSM-03 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 /106 W

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R 301300Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3008

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: FAHMY INTERVIEW WITH AHRAM

1. AHRAM APRIL 30 HAS FULL-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN FAHMY ON BROAD RANGE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. THERE IS NOTHING NEW OR UNUSUAL IN FAHMY'S REMARKS, WHICH ARE CHIEFLY REHASH OF WELL-KNOWN GOE POSITIONS. POINTS OF INTEREST FOLLOW.

A. CONDITIONS FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT. "IN THE CASE OF THE FINAL SETTLEMENT...EGYPT WILL INSIST ON BASIC CONDITIONS INCLUDING:

(1) IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL MUST BE FROZEN FOR AT LEAST 50

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YEARS BECAUSE, AS ISRAEL GAINS POPULATION, IT LOOKS FOR LAND

AND CONSEQUENTLY RESORTS TO AGGRESSIVE EXPANSIONISM AT ARAB EXPENSE.

(2) AGREEMENT ON ARMS BALANCE. SETTLEMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE WHICH PERMITS ISRAEL TO HOLD LARGE VOLUME CONVENTIONAL ARMS TO EGYPT'S DISADVANTAGE.

(3) ISRAEL MUST PLEDGE NEITHER TO MANUFACTURE NOR OBTAIN NUCLEAR ARMS AND MUST SIGN AND RATIFY NPT. ISRAEL MUST AGREE TO INTERNATIONAL NEUTRAL INSPECTION. IF ISRAEL EXPLODES ATOMIC DEVICES, EGYPT WILL OBTAIN SIMILAR WEAPONS OR WILL MANUFACTURE THEM. ISRAEL CAN MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT HAS NOT TAKEN POLITICAL DECISION TO EXPLODE THEM. SHOULD ISRAEL DO SO, IT WILL "BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES."

B. GOE-USSR. "WE WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT ESCALATE OUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIETS." IF THE OTHER SIDE THINKS DIFFERENTLY, HOWEVER, RELATIONS WILL NATURALLY BE AFFECTED.

C. GOE-PRC. EGYPT IS PREPARED DEAL WITH EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, EXCEPT ISRAEL UNTIL PRESENT PROBLEM IS SETTLED, AND IS GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HELP HER. "INCIDENTALLY, DEPPRIMIN FROM DPRK RECENTLY VISITED EGYPT AND AFFIRMED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPT'S DRIVE AND HER POLITICAL LINE." SADAT MAY VISIT ASIA AT A SUITABLE TIME.

D. GENEVA. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUPER POWERS, DIFFERENCES AMONG ARABS, LEBANESE CRISIS, AND ELECTIONS HAVE SLOWED TIMING FOR MEPC. MORE TIME IS REQUIRED TO CREATE SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE BUT MEPC MUST TAKE PLACE OR AREA SITUATION WILL EXPLODE. PLO SHOULD ATTEND TO DISCUSS WHOLE PROBLEM, SO AS TO ACHIEVE OVERALL SETTLEMENT BASED ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY.

E. END OF STATE OF WAR. RESPONDING TO QUESTION RE RECENT ISRAELI STATEMENTS, FAHMY SAID ISSUE IS IMPORTANT BOTH BECAUSE OF TIMING AND FOR "OBJECTIVE" REASONS. ARAB COUNTRIES AT HIGHEST LEVELS SHOULD STUDY ISSUE IN ITS POLITICAL, LEGAL, AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENDING STATE OF WAR FALLS SQUARELY ON ISRAEL, NOT ON ARABS. IF ISRAEL IS REALLY SERIOUS, SHE MUST END AGGRESSION, END OCCUPATION, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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END OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY.

F. SYRIA IN LEBANON. EGYPT HAS NO "COMPLEXES," BUT WILL OPPOSE ARAB PARTISANSHIP IN LEBANON.

2. COMMENT: ONLY REAL POINT OF INTEREST IN INTERVIEW IS FAHMY'S SINGLING OUT OF ISRAELI IMMIGRATION ISSUE AS A CONDITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME HE HAS MADE SUCH

A STATEMENT, BUT, IN OUR VIEW, FAHMY IS TALKING TO HIS ARAB AUDIENCE AND DOES NOT SERIOUSLY INTEND TO INTERJECT BASIC NEW ISSUE INTO EFFORTS RESTART THE PEACE PROCESS. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON WHY FAHMY WOULD CHOOSE RAISE EMOTIVE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION NOW. PERHAPS HE IS RESPONDING TO SOME RECENT GOI APPEAL FOR INCREASED LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION, OR PERHAPS HE HAS SOME FUZZY NOTION OF CAPITALIZING ON CURRENT GOI DISARRAY OVER WEST BANK SETTLEMENT ISSUE. AMBASSADOR WILL ASK FAHMY WHEN HE NEXT SEES HIM.

EILTS

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